

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19

SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 FEAE-00

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ORM-03 SR-02 DRC-01 /163 W

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P R 301557Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9515

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13163

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. LL652 N/A

AGS PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: GOLAN SETTLEMENT AND FRENCH PRESS

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS GREETED GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT SETTLEMENT WITH GENERAL SATISFACTION AND REASONABLE OPTIMISM. END SUMMARY.

1. "HISTORY WILL RECOGNIZE HENRY KISSINGER'S MERITS", SAID A NEWS ANNOUNCER ON ORTF SECOND TELEVISION NETWORK UNCLASSIFIED

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WEDNESDAY EVENING. "THE UNIMAGINABLE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED".

HIS FIRST NETWORK COLLEAGUE ASCRIBED THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT TO "THE REMARKABLE TENACITY OF HENRY KISSING KISSINGER". BOTH INJECTED NOTES OF CAUTION: "THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT PEACE, BUT IT SHOULD REDUCE TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST", SAID ONE; THE OTHER REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S WARNING THAT "MANY DIFFICULTIES REMAIN TO BE OVERCOME".

2. "TENACITY" WAS ALSO LE MONDE'S CHOICE IN DESCRIBING SECRETARY'S WORK IN OVERCOMING "WALL OF SUSPICION, RANCOR, EVEN HATRED" THAT HAS SEPARATED TWO SIDES FOR 25 YEARS. ITS EDITORIAL (OF WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON) DESCRIBED BENEFITS U.S. WILL GET FROM THE AGREEMENT --REMOVAL OF THREAT OF FURTHER ARAB OIL EMBARGO; EVAPORATION OF "BIG CLOUD" OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS JUST PRIOR TO PRESIDENT'S MOSCOW VISIT; AND OPENING OF WAY TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS. LE MONDE SAID "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM" IS IN ORDER FOR NEXT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WILL DEAL WITH "RESTITUTION BY ISRAEL OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES"; AND FOR "MAJOR PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN FUTURE". THE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED THAT, IF "REALISTIC ELEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE PREVAIL AT JUNE 1 CAIRO MEETING, IT IS NOT "EXCESSIVE" TO EXPECT SIMILAR EVOLUTION IN ISRAEL, AND ADDED THAT FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT BY RABIN IS "GOOD OMEN IN THIS RESPECT."

3. IN AURORE, ROLAND FAURE WROTE THAT U.S. MAY NOW PRESSURE DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT TO STOP PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION INTO ISRAEL, AND THAT SECRETARY WILL "MANAGE TO CONVINCE PALESTINIANS THEY SHOULD KEEP QUIET IN ORDER TO GET ENTRY INTO GENEVA CONFERENCE. SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, FAURE THOUGHT, WILL FACE SECRETARY WITH NEED TO PERSUADE HUSSEIN TO "GIVE UP WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN" AND ISRAEL TO "TOLERATE A PALESTINIAN STATE AT ITS DOOR", AND ADDED THAT "SUCH ARE THE PROSPECTS APPARENTLY CONVEYED BY THE OPTIMISTIC SPEECH OF RICHARD NIXON". U.S. PRESIDENT, HE SAID, IS "INCREASINGLY THREATENED ON THE HOME FRONT BY THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE" AND IS FINDING "MOST TIMELY RECOMPENSE" OVERSEAS.

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ISRAELI-SYRIAN AGREEMENT WILL STRENGTHEN HIM, FAURE WROTE, TO GO TO MOSCOW "FREE-HANDED" IN JUNE. FAURE NOTED THAT THIS TIME, MOSCOW HAD A ROLE IN THE AGREEMENT BUT THAT "NONETHELESS IT CONSTITUTES A GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE U.S., WHICH HAS AVOIDED THE NEW THREAT OF AN OIL EMBARGO AND AT SAME TIME REMOVED THE LAST OBSTACLES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PREFERENTIAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE MAJOR PART

OF AN ARAB WORLD WHERE AMERICAN INFLUENCE WILL PARTIALLY
REPLACE THAT OF RUSSIA. WELL PLAYED, MR. KISSINGER*"

4. FOR COMBAT, THE AGREEMENT "WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED
AS A VICTORY FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. ANYWAY, MR. NIXON
WILL PRESENT IT AS SUCH, HOPING IT WILL OVERSHADOW...
WATERGATE. IN FACT, IT IS UNQUESTIONABLE THAT THE U.S.
HAS ADVANCED ITS PAWNS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CHESS BOARD."
COMBAT THOUGHT THIS ADVANTAGE FOR U.S. MIGHT BE TEMPERED
ONCE GROMYKO "RESUMES HIS PLACE AS STRING-PULLER,
TOGETHER WITH U.S., AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TABLE".

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BUT THE COMPROMISE REACHED, PAPER CONCLUDED, IS A FIRST STEP, ONE THAT COST "A LOT OF EFFORT", BUT WHICH MAY BE A "GIANT STRIDE TOWARD PEACE".

5. RICHARD LISCIA, IN QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, ARGUED THAT "CEASE FIRE DOES NOT MEAN PEACE, ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS OR IN SINAI, AND MAGICIAN KISSINGER'S MEDALS ALL HAVE THEIR REVERSE SIDES -- THE SIDE OF HARD-WON SUCCESSES, OF UNCERTAIN ARMISTICES HATCHING NEW WARS. AFTER ALL, THE CREATION OF ILLUSIONS INSTEAD OF REALITIES IS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARACTERISTIC OF MAGIC."

6. AN EDITORIAL IN FRANCE SOIR SAID GOLAN SETTLEMENT IS "UNQUESTIONABLY A STEP TOWARD PEACE, BUT JUST A STEP". PAPER STRESSED THAT SYRIA AND SOVIET UNION IN COMMUNIQUE WEDNESDAY UNDERLINED LIMITS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH REMINDER THAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOLLOWED BY "COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RESTORATION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS". THIS, SAID FRANCE SOIR, "IS AN INKLING OF THE LIMITS OF KISSINGER'S 'COUP DE FORCE' DIPLOMACY, SNATCHING CONCESSIONS FROM BOTH SIDES AND THEN RELYING ON TIME TO WIPE OUT THE CONTRADICTIONS".

7. A REPORT IN FIGARO FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT J.JACQUET-FRANCILLON SAID PRESIDENT "DIDN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO SNATCH THE HERO'S CREDIT FROM KISSINGER. THE OCCASION WAS TOO GOOD NOT TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN TO AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT (WATERGATE) IS NOT AT ALL PREVENTING HIM FROM BEING EQUAL TO HIS TASK" AND TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION OF "WORLD PEACEMAKER". IT IS TO BE NOTED, SAID JACQUET-FRANCILLON, THAT PRESIDENT "DID NOT SAY A WORD ABOUT GROMYKO'S ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT", WHEREAS LAST JANUARY "HE READILY UNDERLINED THE 'CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER' OF SOVIET DIPLOMACY". JACQUET-FRANCILLON QUOTED PRESIDENT THAT "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WILL PURSUE ITS EFFORTS AT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PEACE", AND CONCLUDED: "THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A WAY TO REMIND THOSE SEEKING TO TOPPLE HIM THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND THE WORLD DEMAND THAT HE BE LEFT TIME TO COMPLETE HIS TASK".

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